Relations with Countries of Eastern Europe

1414. DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the main directions of change in India's relationship with the countries in Eastern Europe following the recent happenings in that region?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): India has traditionally had friendly and mutually beneficial relations with the countries of Eastern Europe. These countries are presently engaged in a radical process of economic and political restructuring. The introduction of multi-party democracy in these countries is a development that has been welcomed by the Government of India.

The changes referred to above give rise to even greater opportunities for strengthening relations with these countries and it is Government's endeavour to fully utilise this potential for furthering mutually beneficial co-operation.

Joint Security move against Militants

1415. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of joint security move against militants by security forces of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). There is no such move. However, co-ordinated action is sought to be taken by the security agencies of the concerned States whenever required.

Research on Betel Leaf

1416. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the research work undertaken/ proposed to undertaken to boost betel leaf production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): Sir, Indian Council of Agricultural Research has undertaken research on Betel vine through on All India Co-ordinated Project at ten Centres. As a result of this research integrated disease management strategy involving cultural methods, disease free planting material and soil drenching and spraying techniques with Bordeaux mixture have been developed.

Flood Assistance to Maharashtra

1417. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra was affected by floods and excessive rain during 1991-92;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any request for financial assistance from the Government of Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government have sanctioned the amount requested by the State Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government of Maharashtra has submitted a memorandum seeking additional central assistance of Rs. 100 crores for relief measures in the areas affected by floods during 1991.

(d) and (e). Under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure, the State Governments are requested to meet all expenditure on relief measures in the wake of natural calamities from the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). The Central Government is required to provide additional assistance only in the case of a calamity of rare severity which needs handling at the national level. The memorandum for additional Central assistance received from Maharashtra Government has been considered. It nas been decided that no additional Central assistance is required to be provided to the State Government for meeting the situation, as this cannot be treated as a calamity requiring handling at the national level.

[*Translation*]

Supply of Milk to Delhi

1418. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States which are supplying milk to Delhi;

(b) the daily quantity of milk supplied by these States to Delhi;

(c) the reasons for persistant shortage of milk in Delhi; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand of milk in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

(b) Mother Dairy and Delhi Milk Scheme received about 8 lakh litres of milk per day during January-February, 1992.

(c) Liquid milk arrivals are satisfactory.

(d) In additiona to the usual steps of consumption of conserved commodities during the lean months and imposition of restriction on the conversion of liquid milk into products, the sources of liquid milk supply have been diversified.

[*English*]

Reduction in Kerosene Quota of LPG Users in Delhi

1419. SHRI RAMACHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to decrease the Kerosene quota of LPG users in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether any directives have been issued to Delhi Administration in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No such decision has been taken by Delhi Administration at present.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Recruitment Camps for Para-Military Forces in Himachal Pradesh

1420. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: